

IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Istook Issues Statement from Middle East Regarding Hussein Capture

Congressman Ernest Istook is traveling in the Middle East, making official visits on anti-terrorism topics. He is with other members of the Homeland Security Committee. He issued this statement from Jerusalem:

"This morning we left Damascus, Syria, after meeting with President Assad there yesterday, and we arrived in Israel. The U.S. Ambassador informed us of Hussein's capture over an hour before the official announcement was made. A short while later, we met with Israeli Prime Minister Sharon.

"This good news is more proof of the dogged persistence of our armed forces; the world should thank them for cornering this tyrant. There's not a smidgen of doubt left: Saddam Hussein is finished.

"It will take a while for the full ripple effect, but I expect:

"--Attacks on our troops should decrease, because even the diehards know Hussein will never return to power.

"--Cooperation with the coalition should speed up, because those who work with us have nothing left to fear from Hussein. This is a huge boost for rebuilding Iraq and establishing a free government.

"--I hope it disheartens other terrorists. Now they see that America will finish what we start, and that includes the overall war on terrorism, as well as capturing Hussein.

"--As Mr. Sharon expressed during our meeting, this may help diminish terrorism, not only by discouraging terrorists but also by removing another layer of fear in the Middle East."